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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 1, 2003**

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# **FORMER PINON COMMUNITY SCHOOL EMPLOYEE SENTENCED**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** –The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on March 31, 2003, Sarah Ann Begaye, DOB 5-10-47, of Pinon, Arizona, was sentenced to five years probation, by United States District Court Judge Mary H. Murguia, in Phoenix, Arizona.

The defendant had been employed at the Pinon Community School in Pinon, Arizona, on the Navajo Indian Reservation, as a Residential Program Assistant from January 1997 through the end of 1998. During her employment she forged nine blank payroll checks, totaling \$26,742, and converted the proceeds to her own use.

Ms. Begaye had entered a plea of guilty on January 14, 2003 to the thefts.

As conditions of her probation, the defendant was ordered to pay restitution to the school district in the amount of \$26,742, pay a special assessment of \$100 and to appear in Mesa, Arizona, Municipal Court to resolve an outstanding shoplifting warrant.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Flagstaff, Arizona.

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The prosecution was handled by Mark E. Aspey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-909-PCT-MHM  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-046

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